

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, NEW YORK - MARCH 17, 2016

In Remembrance of Former Buffalo Bills Cheerleader and SPCA Activist Amy M. Veneski-Oliver, and Raising Awareness of Pancreatic Cancer on the Anniversary of Amy's Passing

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that at the Regular Session of the Legislature of Erie County, held in the Legislative Chambers of Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 17th day of March, 2016, a proclamation was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on March 24, 2015, removed from our midst Amy M. Veneski-Oliver, in whose death we have lost a sincere and loyal friend, as well as a valued and respected citizen, and whose family has lost a kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Amy M. Veneski-Oliver, caring wife of James F. Oliver, beloved daughter of John and Dianne Veneski, loving mother of Audrey M. Mang, James Felix "JF" and Evan A. Oliver, passed away at the age of 46 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer; and

WHEREAS, Amy grew up in East Amherst, N.Y., graduating from Williamsville North High School, and went on to become a National Football League Cheerleader for the Buffalo Bills during the team's hard-charging Super Bowl years, and she was attending Nursing School to become a Registered Professional Nurse at Erie Community College while already having received Associate's Degrees in both Criminal Justice and Cosmetology; and

WHEREAS, as a Buffalo Jill, Amy's cheering supported events held by the American Heart Association, Camp Good Days and Special Times, Hunter's Hope, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness, and various other organizations in the Buffalo community. Her community work extended beyond cheering – Amy also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity through St. Mary's Church; and

WHEREAS, as an active member in the SPCA Foster and Adoption Program, Amy took pride in rehabilitating sick and injured animals, adopting two herself; and

WHEREAS, in marking the one year anniversary of Amy's death, her family wishes to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer so other families do not have to face this very difficult and heart-wrenching diagnosis; as this year alone, an estimated 53 thousand adults in the United States will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; the same illness that took Amy from us far too

soon and the same disease that is growing in numbers in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the idea that someone could be potentially saved through surgery and treatment that is only possible when this cancer is found early, or even afforded with more time through early detection of pancreatic cancer, is a calming influence for the family of Amy M. Veneski-Oliver, as they aim to raise awareness in Amy's honor and memory; and

WHEREAS, in Amy's case, a misdiagnosis of gallbladder disorder – an all-too-common occurrence that invariably leads to a late diagnosis of pancreatic cancer for far too many people who seek help from their physician or seek help in emergency departments of hospitals all over the world, resulting in a delayed diagnosis, when potentially curative treatment would do more harm than good for these patients; and

WHEREAS, with more awareness of pancreatic cancer, the signs of early stage disease, and a better understanding of risk factors – early diagnosis is possible – and wonderful organizations with websites offered by the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation (npcf.us), the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (pancan.org), and curePC: The Fight Against Pancreatic Cancer (curepc.org), are leading the way and helping achieve that goal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the anniversary of the passing of Amy M. Veneski-Oliver, and pause in its deliberations to honor and celebrate the Life of Ms. Veneski-Oliver, and offer our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy to Amy's family, friends, and colleagues; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature recognize the need for vigilance against this cancer and call for more education from the medical community concerning pancreatic cancer and early detection, better understanding of symptoms by primary care physicians during regular health screenings, and a new attitude among physicians to “think pancreas” in order to rule out cancer when concerned patients present with symptoms that point to other illnesses; and who are in an early period of illness had pancreatic cancer as a differential diagnosis been considered and when treatment with curative intent is possible.

Hon. Thomas A. Loughran
Minority Leader
Erie County Legislator, 5th District

Karen M. McCarthy
Clerk
Erie County Legislature